East Haddam Library Systems Board of Trustees
Subcommittee Public Relations Meeting
Wednesday December 3, 2025

Former Chair of the Subcommittee Mary Mazur called the meeting to order at 2:34pm

Members present: M Mazur, L White
Also in attendance: E Morgen, Library Director

E Morgen presented the assignments made by Co-Chairman of the Trustees, J Tryon Ranaudo: L White-Chair, L White-Secretary

Discussion ensued. M Mazur would like to keep the Chair position and L Whitel feels very comfortable having the current chair continue as she has not been a member long enough to know the expectations. L White will take the Secretary position as this is a role she has had in several other committees she sits on and has been on.

Newly assigned Chair M Mazur welcomed L White to the committee

M Mazur stated that member A Hinchcliff has expressed that she is not able to attend and will not be available by phone going forward. E Morgen will discuss with D Barlow, Chairman of the Trustees to see how to move forward.

Minutes for the October 1, 2025 meeting were accepted as submitted. Motion made by M Mazur, 2nd L White

Library Director's update

E Morgen continues to discuss plans to move forward with the new joined library building idea. She met with both First Selectman candidates during meet and greets on the campaign trail. Mr Gelston expressed support for beginning the work of designing one new library. He notes the current two are not ADA compliant and that it's expensive to maintain two separate buildings. During a separate meet and greet opportunity, E Morgen found additional vocal supporters of the new library concept. Since the election, Mr Gelston assigned newly elected Selectman T Sevigny as the liaison to the Trustees going forward. He and E Morgen have had a meeting and Sevigny has a lot of great ideas to add to the discussions.

Concerns about the urgency of the new library were discussed, specifically around the ADA compliance neither of the town libraries meet.

Next steps are to form the Building Committee and form a marketing plan which will stem from discussions with community members and stakeholders.

E Morgen also wanted to reinforce the value our libraries hold in the community. There have been many successful partnerships with community organizations. The Community Lions are

holding their Annual Holiday Fund Raising raffle at the Rathbun, the Libraries partnered with Park & Rec, Youth and Family Services and the Fire Department to sponsor the upcoming Family Night on the Green in Moodus. They also partner with The East Haddam Land Trust.

Library Program Updates

The community is reminded about the new website (easthaddamlibrarysystem.org) and the multitude of program offerings available at both Library Branches. Here are a few selections, covering many age ranges:

Rathbun-

Pint-Sized Paint Party

December 11 @ 10:30 am - 11:30 am

We're having a Pint-Sized Paint Party at the library and you're invited! Come explore colors and get creative during this hour of messy fun. No registration required. Recommended for ages 0-5

Homeschool Hangout

December 18 @ 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Calling all homeschoolers! Join us at Rathbun for our monthly Homeschool Hangout. Each session we will explore a different subject, such as art, STEM, nature, etc. We will also have fun games and simple crafts! All ages are welcome! Note: Activities may vary in complexity depending on participants' ages.

Mystery Book Club

December 17 @ 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Pick up your copy of our monthly mystery at the Rathbun Library, and join us for a discussion on the third Wednesday of every month at 2:00pm at the Rathbun Library.
Newcomers are welcome, please email Reference Librarian Nancy Price NPrice@rathbun.lioninc.org or call 860-873-8210 for more details.
The meeting is in-person but readers can also join the meeting via Zoom, the Info is Below (please call ahead so we know to setup the Zoom equipment):

EHFPL-

Adult Craft Night- so popular a second evening needed to be scheduled-Join us at EHFPL on Wednesday, December 10 from 5-7PM to make a gingerbread birdhouse at our adult craft night! All materials are provided, but space is limited, so please RSVP on the library calendar.

Dungeons and Dragons

December 5 @ 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

The World's Greatest Roleplaying Game gives you the chance to take part in epic tales of adventure and fantasy. Tweens and Teens are invited to join in on the fun. Newbies are encouraged, veteran players are welcome.
Information for nerds*:D&D 5e. Any official WotC Classes/Races eligible, custom class/race accepted on case-by-case basis. Players may start at level 3. Characters made at home are subject to DM approval. Pre-made characters available on game nights. *nerds are cool

Kids Game Night – Ticket to Ride

December 10 @ 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Join us at EHFPL for Kids Game Night! We'll be playing Ticket to Ride, and we'll have a variety of other classic and newer board games out to play too. So, grab a friend and come play with us! Recommended for ages 5-12

Flights of Fantasy Book Club

December 12 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Do you prefer your books filled with magic and dragons? Then this is the book club for you! Each month we will read a different fantasy book and discuss what we've read at our meeting on the second Friday of every month. This month we're reading Mistborn by Brandon Sanderson. Copies of the book will be available at the circulation desk.

Old Business

Reminder that Trustee members are encouraged to attend events sponsored by the Library and the Friends Groups. Badges were provided to members in the past, these hold the old logo and several newer members need badges. E Morgen will consult with J Tryon Ranaudo to discuss the need to update the badges for current members and acquire badges for new members. Attending these programs, wearing our badges, reinforces the involvement the Libraries have in the community.

M Mazur reiterated that The Friends Groups need support. L White pointed out that K McRae discussed this at a meeting several months ago and several Trustees signed on to help with upcoming activities at that time. M Mazur stated her experience with her previous library in Lyme that had a sign up list for community members to sign up as helpers, these volunteers could then access events at a reduced or free rate for helping at other events.

New Business

Subcommittee seat assignments as discussed at the beginning of the meeting.

M Mazur presented a goals checklist for the Public relations subcommittee to review. Points were discussed and clarified as either a Trustee action or as oversight of Library Director action. Many points were dually assigned. M Mazur and L White will rewrite these goals and clarify actions and oversight.

Meeting Adjourned 4:05pm

Next meeting January 7, 2026, 2:30pm

Respectfully Submitted, Laurel White, Secretary